Please amend the above-identified patent application, without prejudice, as follows:

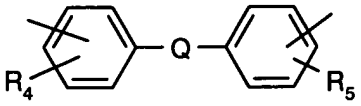
IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 3-15.

Insert new claims 17-42 as follows:

17. (new) A process according to claim 1, wherein

R_1, if n = 1, is C_1-C_{12}alkyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl or biphenyl, the radicals phenyl and biphenyl being unsubstituted or substituted by one to four C_1-C_8alkyl and/or C_1-C_8alkoxy;

R_1, if n = 2, is C_6-C_{10}alkylene, or 

;

R_3 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl or biphenyl, the radicals phenyl and biphenyl being unsubstituted or substituted by one to four C_1-C_8alkyl and/or C_1-C_8alkoxy;

Q is a single bond or -O- , and

R_4 and R_5 are hydrogen.

18. (new) A process according to claim 1, wherein

R_2 is phenyl which is substituted in 2,6- or 2,4,6-position by C_1-C_4alkyl and/or C_1-C_4alkoxy.

19. (new) A process according to claim 1, wherein **n** is 1.

20. (new) A process according to claim 1, wherein Y in formula II is chloro.

21. (new) A process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction (1) is carried out using lithium, sodium or potassium.

22. (new) A process according to claim 21, wherein from 4 to 6 atom equivalents of the alkali metal are used for the preparation of compounds of formula I, wherein m is 2, and 2 to 3 atom equivalents of the alkali metal are used for the preparation of compounds of formula I, wherein m is 1.

23. (new) A process according to claim 1, wherein Y in the compounds of formula III is chloro.

24. (new) A process according to claim 1, which comprises carrying out the reaction (1) in the presence of a catalyst.

25. (new) A process according to claim 1, which comprises carrying out the reaction (1) of the organic phosphorus halides (II) with an alkali metal in the temperature range from -20° to +120°C.

26. (new) A process according to claim 1, which comprises carrying out the reaction (1) of the organic phosphorus halides (II) with magnesium in combination with an alkali metal in the temperature range from 80° to 120°C.

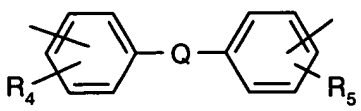
27. (new) A process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction (2) of the metallized phosphine with the acid chloride (III) is carried out at -20° to +80°C.

28. (new) A process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction steps (1) and (2) are carried out in the same solvent.

29. (new) A process according to claim 1, wherein, in formula I, n is 1, m is 1 or 2, R_1 is phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1-C_4alkyl or C_1-C_8alkoxy, or R_1 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl; R_2 is phenyl which is substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4alkoxy or C_1-C_4alkyl; and R_3 is unsubstituted or C_1-C_4alkyl-substituted phenyl.

30. (new) A process according to claim 2, wherein

R_1, if n = 1, is C_1-C_{12}alkyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl or biphenyl, the radicals phenyl and biphenyl being unsubstituted or substituted by one to four C_1-C_8alkyl and/or C_1-C_8alkoxy;

R_1, if n = 2, is C_6-C_{10}alkylene, or 

;

R_3 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl or biphenyl, the radicals phenyl and biphenyl being unsubstituted or substituted by one to four C_1-C_8alkyl and/or C_1-C_8alkoxy;

Q is a single bond or -O- , and

R_4 and R_5 are hydrogen.

31. (new) A process according to claim 2, wherein
R_2 is phenyl which is substituted in 2,6- or 2,4,6-position by C_1-C_4alkyl and/or C_1-C_4alkoxy.

32. (new) A process according to claim 2, wherein n is 1.

33. (new) A process according to claim 2, wherein Y in formula II is chloro.

34. (new) A process according to claim 2, wherein the reaction (1) is carried out using lithium, sodium or potassium.

35. (new) A process according to claim 34, wherein from 4 to 6 atom equivalents of the alkali metal are used for the preparation of compounds of formula I, wherein m is 2, and 2 to 3 atom equivalents of the alkali metal are used for the preparation of compounds of formula I, wherein m is 1.

36. (new) A process according to claim 2, wherein Y in the compounds of formula III is chloro.

37. (new) A process according to claim 2, which comprises carrying out the reaction (1) in the presence of a catalyst.

38. (new) A process according to claim 2, which comprises carrying out the reaction (1) of the organic phosphorus halides (II) with an alkali metal in the temperature range from -20° to +120°C.

39. (new) A process according to claim 2, which comprises carrying out the reaction (1) of the organic phosphorus halides (II) with magnesium in combination with an alkali metal in the temperature range from 80° to 120°C.

40. (new) A process according to claim 2, wherein the reaction (2) of the metallized phosphine with the acid chloride (III) is carried out at -20° to +80°C.

41. (new) A process according to claim 2, wherein the reaction steps (1) and (2) are carried out in the same solvent.

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42. (new) A process according to claim 2, wherein, in formula I, n is 1, m is 1 or 2, R_1 is phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1-C_4alkyl or C_1-C_8alkoxy, or R_1 is C_1-C_{12}alkyl; R_2 is phenyl which is substituted by halogen, C_1-C_4alkoxy or C_1-C_4alkyl; and R_3 is unsubstituted or C_1-C_4alkyl-substituted phenyl.